

# Bay Trail Rider

Fall 2006



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

## Bay Trail Grant Program Moves Forward

The Bay Trail Project's newest source of funding has been allocated to a collection of exciting gap closure projects. Since September 2005, the Bay Trail Steering Committee has awarded 19 planning and construction grants through Proposition 40: The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act passed by the voters of California in March 2002. An established funding partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy enables this grant program to continue the momentum of Bay Trail completion.

The goals of the grant program are to speed Bay Trail construction, encourage cooperative partnerships, foster innovative design solutions, leverage State dollars and provide needed planning funds. The total grant awards of \$2.3 million out of a total project cost of \$28 million illustrate the significant amount of leverage provided by the grantees, which

include cities, counties, nonprofits and special districts. Of the nineteen grants, 11 are construction projects that will complete 8 additional miles of Bay Trail and 8 are planning projects that will seek to overcome obstacles to completing 19 miles of Bay Trail.

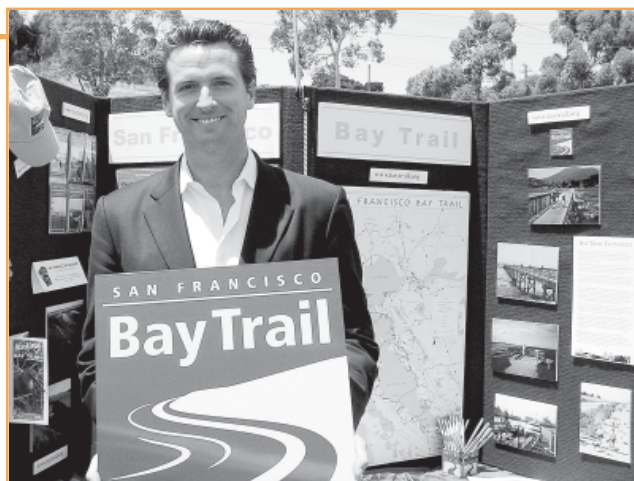
The Bay Trail Project's regional Gap Analysis, completed in September 2005, serves as a valuable tool for identifying potential projects that are eligible for Bay Trail grants. This resource helps staff conduct outreach and solicit grant applications from local land managers to complete gaps.

Several trail planning and construction projects, **Eden Landing** in Hayward, **Yosemite Slough** in San Francisco, **Sears Point Restoration Planning Study** in Sonoma County and **San Mateo Bay Marshes**, include trail improvements as a component of larger wetland restoration projects. The **Napa River Feasibility Study**, **Sonoma Baylands** construction, completion of the gap near the **Bio-Rad** facility in Hercules, and the **Guadalupe River Bridge** in San Jose will provide public access to areas that are not open now. Three projects, **Illinois Street Bridge** in San Francisco, **Shipyard 3** in Richmond and the **West County Wastewater District** segment in Richmond, offer innovative solutions to public access in industrial areas. The **Cargo Way Planning Study**, **San Rafael Canal Area Study** and construction of bicycle lanes in **West Oakland** will provide new opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian access in dense urban neighborhoods.

## The "Blue Greenway" in the Spotlight

In a fine example of community involvement, the San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council spearheaded an effort to complete San Francisco's Bay Trail on the southern waterfront, from the ballpark at McCovey Cove to the county line near Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. The Parks Council has dubbed this project the "**Blue Greenway**" as it strives to implement a portion of the planned San Francisco Bay Water Trail (the "Blue") as well as the San Francisco

*Blue Greenway cont. on page 2*



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom at the June Blue Greenway Kick-Off Event

## Napa County Clears a Path

Of the 44 total miles of Bay Trail in Napa County, only 11% has been completed. However, things in Napa are changing. A 2005 Airport Area Study focusing on bicycle commute routes was prepared by Landpeople for the County of Napa. This study also identified a recreational route that could someday run along the Napa River and provide an exceptional Bay Trail experience.

The Bay Trail Steering Committee recently awarded a \$75,000 planning grant to the County of Napa for the preparation of a feasibility study on the recreational route outlined in the Airport Area Study. This follow-up study will evaluate 8.5 miles near the **Napa River** for its potential to serve as the new Bay Trail spine in Napa County. The Bay Trail Project is very excited to see the beginnings of a spectacular trail along the river in Napa!

## Eden Landing Bay Trail

As a part of the effort to complete the Bay Trail from Hayward to Fremont, the East Bay Regional Park District will be constructing a 3-mile segment of the Bay Trail along the edge of the **Eden Landing Ecological Reserve**. The trail will be located on top of existing levees that run along the northern and eastern edges of the Reserve. In addition to the trail, the project will provide a new 24-car parking lot for trail users and a 1,200-square-foot viewing platform located near the southwestern terminus of Eden Landing Road. These amenities will allow for easy access to observe and enjoy the natural beauty of the Eden Landing marshlands and the plethora of birds and other wildlife in the Reserve. Construction of the Eden Landing Bay Trail will begin in 2007 and be partially funded by a \$163,588 grant from the Bay Trail Project.

When completed, the Eden Landing Bay Trail will link with the proposed Oliver Gap Bay Trail to the north and the Bay Trail that is being planned as part of the Salt Pond Restoration Project to the south. The Oliver Gap Bay Trail Project will also be partially funded by an \$87,500 Bay Trail Grant. Once all three of these projects are on the ground, they will connect with other existing Bay Trail segments and create one of the longest continuous Bay Trail segments, stretching from the Oyster Bay Regional

Shoreline in northern San Leandro down to Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. This would represent approximately 19 continuous miles of the Bay Trail and take a huge step towards completing the Bay Trail in the East Bay.

## Alviso Slough Bridge Planning Study

In March 2006, the City of San Jose completed the first phase of a feasibility study for a bicycle/pedestrian bridge needed to ensure a continuous Bay Trail path in Alviso. As currently planned, the proposed Bay Trail would cross an active railway which presents many technical and safety challenges. The proposed bridge and associated trails would create an alternative route that provides a safe, direct and environmentally sensitive trail crossing of Alviso Slough which bypasses the railway. To move this project forward, the City documented the environmental, right-of-way permitting and construction issues associated with the proposed bridge in the initial phase of the feasibility study. The development of this bridge would allow an enjoyable **Alviso Slough crossing**, future trail connection to the Sunnyvale Baylands, and access to the levee trails at Alviso Marina County Park.

Phase II of the feasibility study is funded with a \$95,000 Bay Trail grant and will include collection of topographical data, geotechnical analysis, and the preparation of an initial environmental assessment. Work on Phase II will begin in Fall 2006 and be completed by Fall 2007 during which the City will continue to seek construction funds for this project.

### *Blue Greenway cont. from page 2*

Bay Trail (the "Green"). The Parks Council was instrumental in the formation of a Mayor's Task Force designed to facilitate coordination among the myriad City agencies with jurisdiction over the waterfront. Significant progress was made, and a June 24<sup>th</sup> kickoff event and celebration of newly installed public art along the Bay Trail was held on a sunny summer day. The next step for the Bay Trail Project is to focus on trail signage along the southern waterfront in order to raise awareness of the effort and to foster stewardship and community involvement.

## Park Bond Slated for November Ballot

**Proposition 84, the 2006 Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act**, is a statewide ballot measure authorizing \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund safe drinking water programs, flood protection, and preservation of natural landscapes. The bond earmarks **\$135 million to the State Coastal Conservancy** and **\$108 million to the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program**.



Over the past six years, the Bay Trail Project and the Coastal Conservancy have awarded over \$8.7 million in grants to local jurisdictions from statewide park bond Propositions 12 and 40 for Bay Trail planning and construction. Passage of this ballot measure would allow this grant program to continue.

## Water Trail

The San Francisco Bay Water Trail, a joint effort of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Coastal Conservancy and the Association of Bay Area Governments, will be a web of launch sites for non-motorized small boats, offering a new way to experience San Francisco Bay. Many of the access points to the water coincide with Bay Trail segments, increasing recreational and educational opportunities for Bay Area residents and tourists.

Water Trail planning began in September 2005 with passage of the Bay Area Water Trail Act which culminated years of advocacy efforts by Bay Access Inc., a small non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and increasing access to the waters of the San Francisco Bay for small boats. Planning of the water trail is led by a Steering Committee comprised of stakeholders representing different types of non-motorized small boating, land and resource management, navigational safety, wildlife and habitat, and other interest groups. The Steering Committee will develop recommendations for trail implementation which will form the core components of a Water Trail Plan that BCDC will submit to the California State Legislature in 2008. If you would like more information on the water trail, go to: [www.bcdc.ca.gov](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov).

## Board Receives Update on Wildlife and Public Access Study

At the May 11 Bay Trail Board meeting, the Wildlife and Public Access Study researchers, Jana Sokale and Dr. Lynne Trulio, presented the results of their multi-year scientific analysis and two papers—*Abundance, Species Richness and Behavior of Wetland Birds in Response to Non-Motorized Trails Around San Francisco Bay* and *“Observer Presence and Prey Diversity as Factors in Bird Use of Trail and Non-Trail Sites Around San Francisco Bay.”* The researchers gave an overview of the data collection and analysis conducted for the three selected research and control sites located at Bothin Marsh, Redwood Shores, and Mountain View Shoreline. The two papers are still in draft form and have received a first round of peer review. The papers are in the

process of being revised and will be submitted to journals this fall. Publication of the papers is anticipated in Spring or Summer 2007. For more information, contact Ceil Scandone, [ceils@abag.ca.gov](mailto:ceils@abag.ca.gov) or 510-464-7961.



Jana Sokale (wearing hat) and Dr. Lynne Trulio (holding binoculars) lead the Bay Trail Board on a tour of the Mountain View Study site.

## Gap Analysis Study Receives APA Award

In June, the San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Analysis Study received an honorable mention in the Northern Section, California Chapter American Planning Association's annual Planning Awards competition. The study comprehensively cataloged all remaining gaps in the Bay Trail system and identified costs and a timeline for completion. Congratulations to the stellar team that worked so hard on this project over a two-year period, including GreenInfo Network, Alta Planning + Design, Questa Engineering, and Bay Trail staff.



## Bill Bliss Memorial

Last year, the Bay Trail Project lost a dear friend and dedicated board member - **Bill Bliss**. Bill was killed in a tragic bicycle accident in the mountains of Colorado. The Bliss family designated the Bay Trail Project as recipient of donations. Staff has been working with the family to create a memorial in honor of Bill's leadership, enthusiasm and dedication to the Bay Trail and have identified a location for a memorial to honor him. The City of San Mateo is currently designing the Bay Marshes project described in the "Along the Bay Trail" article as part of the comprehensive redesign of the San Mateo's shoreline park system. This project site presented a great opportunity for the Bill Bliss memorial. So far, over \$5,700 has been donated in memory of Bill. The memorial details have not yet been determined, but it will focus on Bill's exceptional qualities and contributions to cycling, bicycle safety and trails.

## New Interactive Website for Shoreline Public Access

Outdoor enthusiasts now have a new online resource for exploring the edge of the Bay. Sponsored by the Bay Trail Project and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the **Bay Shoreline Public Access Webguide** features an interactive map that can be used to find trails for bicycling, hiking, jogging, skating, and bird watching along the edge of the shoreline. The website allows you to zoom to a specific area, view aerial photographs, find trails, parks, interpretive centers, trail

## New Bay Trail T-shirts and Caps Now Available

The Bay Trail Project is pleased to announce the availability of new Bay Trail caps and t-shirts. The soft caps in 100% hemp fabric come in green, beige and blue and have an embroidered Bay Trail logo in front and the website address on the back. The fitted t-shirts are 100% cotton and



come in four colors (white, black, storm blue and heathered sand) with a custom Bay Trail image on the front and a small logo on the back. The regular crew neck t-shirts come in three colors (natural, black and athletic heather) and are 100% cotton with a small Bay Trail logo on the front and a custom Bay Trail image on the back. The Bay Trail caps and t-shirts were produced by Goza Gear, a certified green business.



**T-shirts and hats are \$20.00 plus tax. For more details and purchase options, visit our website at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org).**

staging areas and birding sites, and print customized maps. The webguide can be linked from the Bay Trail and BCDC websites at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org) and [www.bcdc.ca.gov](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov).

## Special Thanks to Senator Liz Figueroa

The Bay Trail Project extends a fond farewell to Senator Liz Figueroa as she steps down from the California State Senate. Throughout her tenure as Senator, she has served as an enthusiastic and extremely effective legislative champion for completion of the Bay Trail. Elected to the Senate in 1998 for District 10 (Alameda and Santa Clara Counties), Senator Figueroa served two full terms for the district formerly represented by Bill Lockyer. Due to term limitations, she will leave office at the end of November. In the first year of her Senate term, Figueroa established a commitment to continue legislative leadership for the Bay Trail that originated in her district. She was extremely

effective at gathering strong support for the project from the entire Bay Area delegation. In 2000, her efforts resulted in the largest funding allocation in the history of the Bay Trail Project – a \$7.5 million earmark from Proposition 12. During her tenure in the Senate, over 20 miles of Bay Trail were constructed and another 65 miles were analyzed in planning studies. Throughout her term, Figueroa was a strong voice of support for completion of Bay Trail segments throughout the region, often speaking at dedication ceremonies and events. At their Fall board meeting, the Bay Trail Project Board of Directors will honor the Senator and express appreciation for her leadership.

# Along the Bay Trail

## SAN MATEO

Visitors to the **City of San Mateo's Shoreline Parks** will soon be able to use a new spur of the Bay Trail to visit a very special open space area. The Bay Marshes is one of a few remaining tidal salt marshes in the central San Francisco Bay that provides important habitat for many species of birds, mammals and invertebrates, including some that are endangered or threatened.

The Bay Trail Project is helping the City of San Mateo fund a construction project that will create a boardwalk that allows for public access while protecting valuable marshland. The project will construct a new 335-foot boardwalk trail beginning at the existing Bay Trail and ending as a 520-square-foot observation platform overlooking the Bay Marshes' tidal marsh. The boardwalk trail will measure approximately 8 feet in width and have 4-foot-tall habitat protection railings. The ADA-accessible observation platform will include three benches, two spotting scopes, and three interpretive signs to enhance the visitor's education and enjoyment of local flora and fauna.

## SANTA CLARA

On a sunny Saturday morning in June, the residents of Milpitas gathered at Coyote Creek to celebrate the official opening of a new Bay Trail segment. In partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the City of Milpitas constructed 2.7 miles of new Bay Trail along levees adjacent to Coyote Creek between Dixon Landing Road and Highway 237. As a result, the City of Milpitas has completed almost 100% of the Bay Trail within the City boundaries. The project received a \$391,000 grant from the Bay Trail Project. The **Coyote Creek Trail** provides a new bicycle and pedestrian connection to the McCarthy Ranch retail center and serves as an alternative transportation corridor for employees of nearby high-tech industries.

**Julia Miller**, a long-time Bay Trail Board Member, donated over \$4,000 towards Bay Trail improvements and amenities in Sunnyvale. The improvements along the Bay Trail will include a new bench next to an existing interpretive panel and a new viewing scope, accessible to people with disabilities. The amenities will enable the local residents and employees at the local businesses to find a new resting spot and enhance their ability to observe and enjoy the marsh. The Bay Trail Project thanks Julia for her generous contribution.

## SONOMA

After more than a decade of work by numerous agencies and individuals to restore the tidal wetlands at **Sonoma Baylands**, the public access components of this ambitious project will officially open in November 2006. This 1.5-mile segment of Bay Trail spine affords breathtaking views into Marin and the East Bay, and also offers spectacular birdwatching opportunities. Though a gap remains, this new trail segment connects to a half mile of existing Bay Trail at the Port Sonoma Marina, and the Sears Point Restoration Project to the east will soon provide an additional 2+ miles of Bay Trail spine.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The newest addition to the **San Francisco waterfront** is a 750-foot public access pier built atop a breakwater along the Embarcadero. Located near Rincon Park, the placement of the accessway on top of the breakwater makes Treasure Island and the Bay Bridge appear mere steps away.



*Pier 14 Dedication in San Francisco*

## MARIN

Marin County is one of four communities in the United States to participate in the **Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program** funded through the federal surface transportation bill. Each of the four pilots will receive a total of \$25 million over the next four years to build a bicycle and pedestrian network that will connect directly with transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, and other community activity centers. With 98 miles of Bay Trail spine and connector trails in Marin County, the program is sure to implement some important Bay Trail segments along the way.

The **Canal neighborhood** in San Rafael is the most densely populated area in Marin County, yet residents have a difficult time navigating the streets in this car-centric place and have little appreciable access to the waterfront that is in their backyard. A \$20,000 Bay Trail planning grant to the City of San Rafael will assess the options for creating a waterfront promenade along the Canal in this vibrant and growing region.

## CONTRA COSTA

In June, Republic Services held a ribbon cutting ceremony for 1.4 miles of new Bay Trail at the **West County Landfill** facility in Richmond. This represents the first phase of a proposed 3-mile Bay Trail loop that will encircle the landfill as it transitions from an active facility to a recreational park that provides shoreline access in an area that currently has few opportunities. This new Bay Trail segment offers spectacular views of Wildcat Creek Marsh and San Pablo Bay which attract many birds and wildlife. The realization of this project could not have



*West County Landfill Bay Trail Ribbon Cutting*

occurred without the vision and efforts of Republic Services, the landfill operator.

## ABAG Tees Up for the Bay Trail

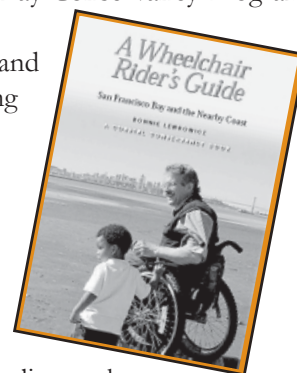
The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) held its **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Service Program and Port of Oakland Golf Tournament** on July 28th, at the Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakland. Co-sponsored by ABAG, the tournament took place on a segment of the Bay Trail that is under construction. Proceeds in the amount of \$3,000 were donated to the Bay Trail Project.

The Bay Trail wishes to express our gratitude to: **The Port of Oakland**, Bank of America, Mayers Nave, American Technologies, Bank of New York, Bank of the West, BRS, Cargill, C.V. Starr & Co., Driver Alliant Insurance Services, Ideal Driving, Jones Hall Professional Law Corporation, Maze & Associates, Nixon Peabody LLP, Selman Breitman Attorneys LLP, and Service Master Clean.



## A Wheelchair Rider's Guide

In an effort to provide shoreline access to the greatest number of people possible, the California Coastal Conservancy recently funded and published "A Wheelchair Rider's Guide." It was produced as a part of the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Conservancy Program and is an excellent resource to explore both the well-known and more remote destinations along the Bay Area's shorelines. The guide includes descriptions of wheelchair accessible places to visit, maps and pictures accompanied by useful hints, and website addresses and phone numbers for additional information. Many of the shoreline parks and trails along the San Francisco Bay are described in the guide including the Bay Trail. For a free copy of this book, call the Coastal Conservancy at (510) 286-1015 or visit their website at [www.scc.ca.gov](http://www.scc.ca.gov).



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**BAY TRAIL RIDER**, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. For more information about the Bay Trail, visit our website or call, write or e-mail us.



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